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SPRUCE BARK BEETLE NEWS



REGION ONE Missoula, Montana

July 23, 1953

No. 1

FIRST NUMBER

SPRUCE BARK BEETLE NEWS is devoted to news about the spruce bark beetle epidemic and its control in north Idaho and western Montana. Items about other insects will be included. Your news articles are needed to make it a success.

To be published first Thursday of each pay period - we hope!

LET'S PASS A MIRACLE, MEN! Crow's Lumber Digest for July 9 says that unless a miracle is passed the total cut of spruce in the Inland Empire in 1953 will be only 150 million board feet.

108 MILLION SPRUCE SOLD IN TWO WEEKS - Reports from the seven spruce bark beetle forests show that 108 million board feet of spruce were sold in sales awarded in the two-week period from July 5 to 18, inclusive. The St. Joe accounted for 55 million by scilling Homestead, Daveggio, and Sisters Basin. The Kootenai, Flathead, and Kaniksu also awarded sales that contributed to the period total. A large part of this spruce will be taken out as infested logs during 1953 and 1954 as part of the program to control the spruce bark beetle by logging.

INFESTED SPRUCE LOGGED - During the past flight-year (July 1, 1952 to June 30, 1953) over 95 million board feet of infested spruce were logged from lands of all ownerships in the Inland Empire. Seventy-five million of these bug-infested logs were taken from national forest lands. This production exceeds the most optimistic forecasts made at the beginning of the period. During the same time the total cut of infested, dead, and green spruce from lands of all ownerships was 172 million board feet, of which 108 million came from the national forests.

TRAP TREES - Preliminary findings indicate that trap trees may become an important control method. The 7,083 trap trees cut prior to the flight of the beetle this spring are now literally "loaded" with beetles according to word from the field. Each trap tree is supposed to attract beetles to itself and thus save a number of green standing trees. After they are "filled" trap trees will be logged or treated chemically. Trap trees are not a new idea. They are mentioned in Hopkin's bulletin published in 1909.

OLD TIMERS, CAN YOU TOP THIS? It happened in June on Wellington Creek in the high spruce type on the Kaniksu. It began with the selection of a camp site for a crew spraying infested spruce trees with chemicals. There were eleven feet of snow at the time, so a camp site was selected in an opening where the top of the snow was relatively level. Camp was dropped from the air and tents were pitched without floors on the snow. The business of eating, sleeping, working, and resting began. Men came in at night wet and cold. Hot fires were made in the stoves in the tents. Each night the snow floors melted and receded downward. Each morning cots were tilted at crazy angles and tents had to be pitched again. Cold, wet, shovel snow, pitch tents, on and on.

This went on for seemingly endless days and nights; cold camp, wet clothes, rain, snow, melting tent floors; saplings and brush popped out of the snow floors; then windfalls began to show up under the tents---most inconvenient. New tent sites were found. More windfalls. More tent pitching. Then a tent floor broke through into a creek.

Hank Viche warns it will be dangerous for old timers to try to tell the men of the Wellington camp how tough and rugged things were in the early days of the Forest Service, when men were men.

FREY HEADS SPRUCE BEETLE SURVEYS ON FLATHEAD - John Castles and Robert Frey from the Flathead visited Timber Management in Missoula July 16. Mr. Frey will head up the spruce bark beetle surveys and compilations on the Flathead.

SCHOOL FOR BUG DETECTORS - Six forests sent men to a school held July 16 at Packers Meadows on the Lolo. They were trained to make detection surveys for spruce bark beetles, pine beetles, and other insects. The forests represented contain considerable spruce but they did not find the spruce bark beetle to be epidemic in 1952. Forests were represented as follows: Beaverhead, Harold Hendron; Bitterroot, Howard Lee; Deerlodge, Ben Hoffman; Helena, Jeff Greene; Lewis and Clark, Robert McNeil; and Nezperce, Earl Wright. Tom Terrell of the B. E. P. Q. and Dave Scott and Vic Sandberg of the regional office were instructors. Axel Lindh and Clem West paid the school a brief visit.

FOREST OFFICERS DETAILED TO R-1

These men were a big help.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Assigned</u>
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7-1-53

Ted H. Shubert	R-5	Engineering
Pebble Keef	R-5	Kootenai
Miles J. Gullock	R-5	Flathead
Wilbur U. Howard	R-5	Lolo
Frank W. Lara	R-5	Lolo
Francis D. Schrom	R-5	Lolo
Raymond Adolphson	R-2	Kaniksu
Charles R. Weller	R-2	Kootenai
Ray Johnson	R-2	Flathead
Wesley Hathaway	R-2	Flathead
William Plourde	R-2	Flathead
Arley E. Husk	R-3	Engineering
Giles McHenry	R-5	Kootenai
Elmo H. Holman	R-4	St. Joe
Howard J. Makela	R-4	St. Joe
Delmar F. Marsolck	R-4	St. Joe
Melvin J. Long	R-4	St. Joe
Raymond H. White	R-8	Flathead
William W. Brown	R-9	Kaniksu
Thomas E. Roberts	R-9	Lands

Most of the foresters returned home July 15. The engineers will stay until fall.

ST. JOE ITEMS - Supervisor Duvendack; Staffmen Dave Kyle, Gordon Cornell, Carl Nelson; ranger Milton Phillips; and Highway Construction Engineer Warren O'Meara; and Grant Potter, field superintendent of the Ohio Match Company, hiked down Bluff Creek from Dismal Lake to the St. Joe River road July 14. They hiked 4 miles by trail and 8 miles by creek bottom or across country. The purpose of the trip was to obtain information on probable road route and costs and to size up the timber. The fishing possibilities in Bluff Creek were sampled by several members of the party. The river was reached at 8:00 p.m.

Clyde Miller assisted by detailers from Region 4 and the Nezperce has been making operational surveys. Snow 2 to 7 feet deep was encountered. Two air-drop camps were used, one at Black Jack Peak and another at Jungle Cabin. Bear moved in when the crew moved out and wrecked both camps.

The St. Joe reports the 1953 flight as being 75 percent over July 17. They also report a large increase in infestation over 1952.

Reconstruction of 8.6 miles of the Marble Creek road is nearing completion. It was started in May by Bruce Lowthian of the Helena and taken over by Jack Root of Belgrade, Montana, on June 16. The combined efforts of the two foremen have cut the safe driving time from one hour down to 20 minutes.

First infested spruce was hauled over the road July 1. Private timber, including some infested spruce, is rolling down Marble Creek at the rate of about 70,000 board feet per day. Thirty-five million board feet of Forest Service beetle-damaged spruce will start to move over the reconstructed road within a few weeks.

UGH! A group of Indians in a chemical spray crew expressed unstoical astonishment while a college trained entomologist ate spruce bark beetle larvae and pronounced them tasty.

SLASH ON SPRUCE SALES AND ROADS - Assistant Regional Forester A. E. Spaulding heads a committee to review on-the-sale application of present standards and policies and recommended methods for reduction of fire and insect slash hazards on sales of infested spruce timber to control the beetle epidemic. A report is to be prepared by August 1. Other members of the committee include: Jim Evenden, George Stoltz, Art Roe, and George Fahnstock. These men represent B. E. P. Q., Timber Management and the N. R. M. Forest & Range Experiment Station respectively. They plan to visit the spruce cuttings in the Fishhook-Sisters area on the St. Joe, where they will be joined by Hanley Morse of the Western Pine Association and Royce Cox, Potlatch forester, and St. Joe men on July 20. July 21 will be spent on the Kaniksu with local forest officers.

FILE FLIPPERS GET ONE ON BEETLE DOME PLANNER - Betty Gauld and Helen Rigg flipped files furiously last week in Timber Management in Missoula trying to find the Madison Laboratories new Engelmann spruce bulletin for one of the planners. This character was positive he had seen it. When Mrs. Griffiths, in I. V. Anderson's office, was called she said the manuscript was on I. V.'s desk. The bulletin hadn't been printed yet.

ENGINEERING NOTES - The Bureau of Public Roads has more than 250 men working on spruce access roads. Nearly one-half million dollars has so far been set up for 102 miles of force account roads. Over \$2,500,000 worth of contracts have been let on 113 miles of spruce access roads. Equipment rental bids are to be opened covering 18.1 miles of roads on the Cabinet July 24. Bid opening dates for contract jobs are as follows:

Flathead, White Cr. - 318 - 14.0 miles July 30.
Hay-Shorty Cr. - 376 - 4.0 miles July 30.
Teepee Cr. - 907 - 6.5 miles July 31.
Kaniksu, Rattle Cr. - 419A - 5.0 miles July 23.
Bectop Mtn. - 419C - 2.0 miles July 23.
Myrtle Cr. - 633 - 9.0 miles July 23.
Kootenai, S. Fk. Meadow Cr. - 524 - 4.5 miles July 28.
Spread Cr. - 339 - 7.0 miles July 28.
Trego-Wolf Cr. - 36 - 4.3 miles August 7.
Lolo, Squaw-Doe Cr. - 679 - 7.7 miles August 7.

RIGHT-OF-WAYS - Red Stewart reports that there have been no delays in the construction of any spruce access roads due to right-of-ways. There are about 135 individual cases to be processed. Flathead and Kootenai have more than other forests. Legal requirements for surveys to pin point the location of the roads for which right-of-ways were sought were a handicap. The counties are obtaining some of the right-of-ways. In the main, there has been excellent cooperation from landowners. Condemnation has not proved to be necessary.

CABINET NEWS - They report that a sale preparation cruise will be started soon in infested spruce and other timber in Graves Creek near Thompson Falls.

KANIKSU NOTE - Knox Marshall took Sam Evans, Jim Parsons, and Ross Hall to visit access road jobs and beetle control logging on Lightning, Quartz, and Snow Creeks on July 14. Photographs were taken by Hall to document his news stories and articles. Parsons will also write articles on the beetle situation.

CLEARWATER TAKE NOTICE - Please send the NEWS a progress report on the hootpecker you invented to kill beetles night and day.

KOOTENAI DOINGS - D. Smith trained 10 men in beetle surveys at Turner R. S. on Libby Ranger District July 13, 16, and 17. The school was interrupted two days due to fires.

Herb Flodberg and Al McGraw, July 6, 7, and 8, trained 20 men at the Ant Flat R. S. as additional scalers needed for the expanding spruce harvest.

LOLO BITS - Supervisor Lyman left Missoula Sunday, July 19, with Herb Norgaard and Ed Shults for Orofino, Idaho, to attend the access road hearing held there July 20. Helen Rigg from Timber Management went along as recorder. Tom Terrell has been making quite a name for himself in the Powell country flying up and down canyons in a helicopter looking for bug trees. Ranger Bob Beaubier states that about 100 M is being logged per day from the Lolo Ranger District.